

I CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented method for calculating the postage of a print job, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic print job having a set of predefined electronic
5 print job attributes; and

calculating a postage for the print job using the set of predefined electronic print job attributes.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating a postage for the print job includes calculating a weight for the print job using weight-determining factors from the set of predefined electronic print job attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the calculated weight.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein calculating a postage for the print job further includes determining a parcel size for the print job using size-determining factors from the set of predefined electronic print job attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the determined parcel size.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein calculating a postage for the print job further includes:

determining a delivery method using the predefined electronic print job
25 attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the determined delivery method; and

calculating postage from the calculated weight, shipping size, and postage rate scale applied.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the weight-determining factors are selected from the group consisting of media type, printer technology, number of pages per item mailed, and binding materials.

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6. The method of claim 4, wherein the determined delivery method defines a carrier.

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7. The method of claim 4, wherein the determined delivery method defines a service type.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the parcel size is determined automatically using media type, number of pages, and binding materials.

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9. The method of claim 4, wherein the parcel size predetermined by a user.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the calculated postage is forwarded to a print shop to be printed along with the hardcopy.

11. A postal calculator comprising a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions provide for the steps of:

providing an electronic print job having a set of predefined electronic
5 print job attributes; and

calculating a postage for the print job using the set of predefined
electronic print job attributes.

10 12. The postal calculator of claim 11, wherein calculating a postage for the print job includes calculating a weight for the print job using weight-determining factors from the set of predefined electronic print job attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the calculated weight.

15 13. The postal calculator of claim 12, wherein calculating a postage for the print job further includes determining a parcel size for the print job using size-determining factors from the set of predefined electronic print job attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the determined
20 parcel size.

14. The postal calculator of claim 13, wherein calculating a postage for the print job further includes:
25 determining a delivery method using the predefined electronic print job attributes and applying a postage rate scale associated with the determined carrier; and
calculating postage from the calculated weight, parcel size, and postage rate scale applied.

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